

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 338, on approval of H. Res 310, providing for the consideration of H.R. 2211, the "Ready to Teach Act." Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res 310.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, QUEENS CHAPTER #32 ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF 76TH AVENUE IN GLENDALE, NEW YORK AS "VIETNAM VETERANS LANE"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the veterans of the Vietnam War and to honor in particular the members of the Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. All of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Americans who served abroad in the armed forces during our nation's longest and perhaps most difficult military conflict. I am pleased to recognize the service to our country of all the members of Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America and of its President, Pastor Toro, Jr.

This month, in recognition of their service to our nation and to our city, the Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America is being honored by the rededication of a portion of 76th Avenue as "Vietnam Veterans Lane." This thoroughfare, located between Woodhaven Boulevard and 88th Street in the Glendale neighborhood of the Borough of Queens in New York City, is the permanent location of Queens Chapter #32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The members of the Queens Chapter #32 have truly earned our gratitude, admiration, and appreciation.

At the dedication ceremony for Vietnam Veterans Lane, the "Order of the Silver Rose" will be presented to several Chapter members who have suffered from a multitude of illnesses and symptoms associated with exposure to "Agent Orange." These veterans continue to pay a price for their willingness to serve our country, and it is only fitting that we acknowledge their sacrifice on behalf of all of us.

Although it has been just over three decades since our troops engaged in active combat in Vietnam, we will never forget the bravery of all those who served and the ultimate sacrifice of the more than 58,000 military personnel who gave their lives in service to their country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the veterans of the Vietnam War. It is a fitting tribute that New York City is naming a street in honor of those who served in Vietnam.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian recently celebrated his third anniversary in office. He has done many good things for his country and strengthened Taiwan's ties with America.

Taiwan has been very cooperative with the United States in our global war against terrorism, and Taiwan has pledged assistance to post-war Iraq. In addition, Taiwan has provided medical assistance and humanitarian aid to a number of African nations.

We hope Taiwan will continue to prosper in the future. We are glad to hear that Taiwan has been declared SARS free and it is now safe to travel to Taiwan and other parts of Asia.

We also hope that the United States will soon increase trade opportunities with Taiwan by launching negotiations on a free trade agreement.

Congratulations, President Chen.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY CHIEF MICHAEL J. SIKA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an exceptional individual, Michael J. Sika, who was officially sworn in as Deputy Chief of Detectives for the Passaic County prosecutor's Office on Wednesday, July 2, 2003.

For the past 22 years, Deputy Chief Sika has devoted himself to ensuring the safety of the people of New Jersey. It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Michael Sika began his career in law enforcement in 1981 as a New Jersey State S.P.C.A. Officer. In 1983, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Special Investigations in the Severe Cruelty to Animals Unit where he and his unit targeted pit bull fighting and cock fighting matches.

It was only four short years later that Michael began working as a Passaic County Investigator in the Prosecutor's Office. In addition to his duties in the Juvenile Court Unit, the Court Squad / Extraditions Unit and the Environmental Prosecutor's Unit, Michael began to augment his previous training in Title

4—Statutes, Arrest, Search & Seizure and Firearms, by attending the Division of Criminal Justice Training Academy where he received the Academic Excellence Award.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most impressive is the work that Michael has done since his 1992 promotion to the position of Sergeant in charge of the Environmental Crimes Unit. During his eleven year tenure with the Environmental Crimes Unit, Michael worked with Federal, State, and Local authorities in the investigations of over 300 cases involving hazardous waste. He attended numerous courses in Explosives, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and Haz-Mat Techniques, and he has served as a Certified Instructor in Firearms and Environmental Crimes at the Passaic Police Academy since 1994.

In September 2002, Michael Sika was promoted to the rank of Captain and assigned as the Commander of the newly formed Passaic County narcotics Task Force. Less than a year later, he was promoted to Acting Deputy Chief, and was subsequently reassigned to assist Chief Glenn Brown in the reorganization of the Investigators' Staff of the Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the accomplishments of such an outstanding individual. Deputy chief Michael Sika's long history of service to the people of Passaic County, and his commitment to educating those that choose to follow in his footsteps is beyond compare.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Deputy Chief Michael J. Sika.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2003

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, June 25, I attended the funeral of the Honorable Bob Stump in Phoenix, Arizona and missed votes on the following measures:

S. 858—To extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes (#312). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 2474—To require that funds made available for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships be administered through the Congressional Hunger Center (#313). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H.J. Res. 40—To recognize the important service to the Nation provided by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of its 50th anniversary (#314). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

H. Con. Res. 49—To express the sense of the Congress that the sharp escalation of anti-

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